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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Election Bylaws**

May 6, 2015

SB92-14/15

Authored by: Caleb Chestnut, ASUM Senator; Chase Ellinger, ASUM Senator

Sponsored by:

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports and advocates for students;

Whereas, ASUM's spring elections feature contested races;

Whereas, in the midst of such races, ASUM seeks to maintain the integrity of its elections process;

Whereas, Article V, Section 3, Subsection N of the ASUM Bylaws reads:

"Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Any campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any third party shall be considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate's name or image; newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates."

Whereas, the solicitation and/or receiving of endorsements is intended to give candidates an edge in these competitive races;

Whereas, during the 2015 ASUM elections, candidates were endorsed by a range of non-ASUM-recognized groups, , such as academic departments, fraternities, and private companies;

Whereas, off-campus organizations who endorse candidates are typically most conscious of their own interests, not those of students;

Whereas, department endorsements represent the interests of faculty and staff, not necessarily students, and their endorsements may give the impression of conflicts of interest;

Whereas, fraternities and sororities have immense influence on the UM campus but do not operate under the auspices of ASUM;

Whereas, endorsements by fraternities and sororities may give candidates an unfair advantage to candidates contesting ASUM elections;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the ASUM Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, Subsection N be amended to read:

46 *“Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall*
47 *be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Candidates may only receive*
48 *endorsements for their campaigns from individual ASUM activity fee-paying UM students.*
49 *Candidates are prohibited from accepting or soliciting endorsements from third-party*
50 *organizations, including but not limited to, ASUM student groups, fraternities and sororities,*
51 *academic departments, UM sports teams, non-profit organizations, and private companies. Any*
52 *campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any party shall be*
53 *considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not*
54 *limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate's name or image;*
55 *newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of*
56 *candidates.”*
57
58

59 Passed by Committee:

60
61 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015
62

63 _____
64 Sarah Smith,
65 Chair of Relations & Affairs

Sean McQuillan,
Chair of the Senate